DOE NEWS

MEDIA CONTACT:
Erik Olds (509) 372-8656
Megan Barnett (202) 586-4940

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 2, 2006

DOE ISSUES QUARTERLY REPORT ON WASTE TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week issued a congressionally mandated quarterly report detailing the status of construction of the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State.

The *2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act Conference Report* (109-275) requires DOE to report quarterly, beginning on January 1, 2006, on the activities and financial status of each of the subprojects of the WTP project. The subprojects that comprise the WTP are: Pretreatment facility, High-Level Waste facility, Low-Activity Waste facility, Analytical Laboratory, and Balance of Facilities.

"We have sought independent external reviews by senior officials in private industry, academia and other government agencies to analyze key elements of the Waste Treatment Plant, including technology, cost and schedule, project management and earthquake seismic criteria and this report provides a comprehensive update on this and other progress," said WTP Project Manager John Eschenberg. "We're committed to the successful completion of this project and are actively incorporating management initiatives to ensure the project's success."

This quarterly report provides a summary of management and oversight issues and technical reviews, as well as a status on construction progress, cost and schedule, and project challenges. The report and other documents regarding Hanford's WTP project can be found at the DOE's Office of River Protection internet website at www.Hanford.gov under the section titled Public Information/Public Involvement.

The WTP will be an industrial complex of facilities for separating and vitrifying (immobilizing in glass) millions of gallons of radioactive and chemical wastes stored at the Hanford Site. The five major components of the WTP will be the Pretreatment Facility for separating the waste, the High-Level Waste and Low-Activity Waste facilities where the waste will be immobilized in glass, the Analytical Laboratory for testing quality of the glass, and the Balance of Facilities

which will comprise over 20 various support facilities. Once complete, the WTP will be the largest and most capable facility of its kind in the world.

###

ORP-002-06